

Community Focus Statement H: Improve public safety.

H3

Action Statement H.3: Partner with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, United States Forest Service, San Bernardino County Fire, local safety experts, insurance companies to educate property owners on securing homes and businesses to deter crime and make properties safe.

Benchmarks: Partnership is developed to provide additional informational materials and services to homeowners and business owners related to community safety and security concerns.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: \$800–\$3,500



Defensible space around homes and businesses can reduce the risk of buildings being destroyed by wildfires. Photo source: Michael Rieger/FEMA

Property owners in the Hilltop communities face risk from crime and natural disasters, particularly wildfire, but also droughts, earthquakes, and landslides. In the face of wildfire and other risks, identifying the best course of action to enhance the security of a home or business can be overwhelming. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's and Fire departments, local safety experts, and insurance companies can assist in educating property owners to address concerns about crime, wildfires, and other natural hazards within their individual properties.

These actions allow property owners to enhance the security of their home or business while simultaneously increasing the overall safety of the community.

In partnership between the Hilltop communities, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, local safety experts, and insurance companies would provide property owners with a variety of educational resources and local perspectives about the best ways to enhance the security of homes and businesses. Evaluation of existing vulnerabilities in homes and businesses in the Hilltop communities can increase the effectiveness of education and outreach, targeting areas that are currently susceptible to crime and natural hazards. A partnership could help property owners take action through workshops on property protection, strong building and maintenance practices, and security monitoring. Education tailored to the Hilltop communities, such as specific education on securing a home-based business or information about fire-safe retrofits that property owners can make to their buildings, can help ensure property owners are engaged and receiving applicable information. These efforts can also target vulnerabilities of seasonal homes, which may be especially prone to the impacts of crime and natural hazards when vacant. Local safety experts can provide suggestions about technical resources, estimated costs, and anticipated benefits of safety and security updates.

Organizing educational workshops and demonstrations and reaching out to homes and businesses that have previously experienced a property crime or the impacts of a natural hazard can build and strengthen community partnerships and increase safety across the Hilltop communities. By working with individual properties to increase security, the cumulative impact of these efforts will lead to a safer, stronger community by reducing hazard risk, discouraging crime, and inspiring other home owners and business owners to participate.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Create a Safety Committee	Champion		San Bernardino County, Mountain Area Safety Taskforce http://www.sbcounty.gov/calmast/ Consumer Reports: 14 ways to make your home more secure http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/news/2014/06/14-ways-to-make-your-home-more-secure/index.htm National Institute of Justice: Crime and crime prevention – property crime https://www.crimesolutions.gov/TopicDetails.aspx?ID=21 Cal Fire: Wildfire Protection http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/coddevelopment/wildfireprotection FEMA: Home Builder’s Guide to Construction in Wildfire Zones https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-
2. Contact each entity to discuss the information they already have available.	Safety Committee	Months 1 – 2	
3. Contact and work with community groups, residents, and business owners to identify security needs in the community.	Safety Committee	Months 1 – 2, on-going	
4. Select a volunteer to serve as the program lead to assist with coordination between agencies, organizations, and information management.	Safety Committee	Month 3	
5. Conduct surveys of fire resiliency in the community, including the proportion of buildings with defensible space and fire-resilient roofing, in coordination with Cal Fire and the US Forest Service.	Safety Committee with support from USFS, County Fire Department, Cal Fire	Months 4 – 6, on-going	
6. Host regular community meetings and workshops about securing homes and businesses against crime and wildfire. Provide information and resources to residents and property owners. Host meetings at least twice a year, including those integrated into meetings of existing groups.	Safety Committee with support from Sheriff’s Department and Fire Hazard Abatement, US Forest Service, County Fire Department, Cal Fire, neighborhood watch groups, Mountain Area Safety Taskforce, Running Springs Area Chamber of Commerce, Mountain Rim Fire Safe Council	Month 6, On-going	



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
7. Make information about making properties more secure against crime and wildfire, including potential financial resources, available in a community facility and online, in all commonly spoken languages in the community.	Safety Committee	Month 6, On-going	1652-20490-4085/fema_p_737.pdf
8. Explore the feasibility of a grant, revolving loan, or other financial incentive mechanism to encourage property owners to secure their buildings against crime and wildfire.	Safety Committee, County Fire Department, Fire Hazard Abatement, Cal Fire	Months 6 – 8	
9. Support and encourage the adoption of building standards that require increased protection against wildfires for new construction.	Safety Committee, with support from County Fire Department, Building & Safety Division, local community groups, businesses	Month 10, On-going	
10. Establish a program to offer free wildfire protection consultations to local property owners.	Safety Committee, with support from County Fire Department and Fire Hazard Abatement, local community groups, businesses	Month 10, On-going	